Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy 2026-27

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Version 1.0

CLEEVE SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority (LA).

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority: https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ghes/

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. These arrangements apply to students with a medical condition that prevents them from accessing school on a full time basis, it is not intended to cover:

- Absence due to routine illness
- Absence due to a student refusing to attend school or a parent refusing to send their child into school.

As such it is anticipated that any student for whom these arrangements are relevant will be under the regular care of a healthcare professional who will be able to confirm the necessity of these arrangements and advise on their implementation.

Heads of Learning, in consultation with relevant Heads of Key Stage will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. Where a student has, or may have, SEND, they will involve the Deputy Headteacher SENDCo. A meeting will be made with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion.

Arrangements could include sending work home, attending or directing to online lessons or providing alternative notes and resources. Where appropriate we will also attempt to maintain social contact with the young person's peer group.

The student will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the student may come back into school on an adapted timetable until their health needs have been met. Any decision to adapt a student's timetable will be made on a temporary basis, will be subject to regular review, and must be approved by the relevant Head of School. The attendance administrator will be responsible for informing the local authority of any such arrangements.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements Gloucestershire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
    - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
    - Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Head: SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- SEND Policy
- SEND Local Plan
- SEND Information document
- Public Sector Equality Duty